

In Washington, we're now in the midst of an important discussion about immigration. Our current immigration system is in need of reform. It is not working. We need a system where our laws are respected. We need a system that meets the needs of our economy. And we need a system that treats people with dignity and helps newcomers assimilate into our society.

We must address all elements of this problem together or none of them will be solved at all. We must do it in a way that learns from the mistakes that caused previous reforms to fail. I support comprehensive immigration reform that will allow us to secure our borders and enforce our laws, to keep us competitive in the global economy, and to resolve the status of those already here, without amnesty and without animosity.

Comprehensive immigration reform is a vital goal for our Nation, and it is a matter of deep conviction for me. I will continue to work closely with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle to build a consensus for reform so Congress can pass and I can sign a comprehensive immigration bill into law *este ano*.

The United States and Mexico share a great border, and we share a hopeful future. Tomorrow people on both sides of that border will celebrate freedom and the courage of all who defend it. I wish you a happy Cinco de Mayo. *Que Dios los bendiga a los Estados Unidos y tambien Mexico.*

And now, Los Hermanos Mora Arriaga.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:54 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Emilio Estefan, Jr., chairman, Estefan Enterprises, Inc.; and Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan Casamitjana. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Statement on the Resignation of Jack D. Crouch II as Deputy National Security Adviser *May 4, 2007*

Dr. J.D. Crouch II came to the White House in January 2005 to serve as my Deputy National Security Adviser. J.D. has served our country with great distinction during a critical period in our history, as we confront

new challenges and pursue a global war on terror. In the past 2½ years, his accomplishments have been many. He was at the forefront in devising and implementing the new strategy to help build a peaceful, stable, and secure Iraq. He was instrumental in developing the new national security strategy that charts a course for advancing our interests abroad, enhancing global security and liberty, and protecting the American people. J.D. is leaving the White House, but Steve Hadley, all his colleagues, and I have benefited greatly from his wise counsel and tireless commitment to public service.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

April 28

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

Later in the morning, the President traveled to Miami, FL, where, upon arrival in the afternoon, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Josh Blyden. He then traveled to Key Biscayne, FL, where he attended a Republican National Committee luncheon at a private residence.

Later in the afternoon, the President returned to Miami, FL.

In the evening, the President returned to Washington, DC.

April 30

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Jose Manuel Durao Barroso of the European Commission and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, in her capacity as President of the European Council.

In the afternoon, the President had a lunch meeting with President Durao Barroso and President Merkel. Later, in Room 350 of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office

Building, he met with members of the Trans-Atlantic Business Dialogue.

Later in the afternoon, on the State Floor, the President participated in a photo opportunity with winners of the FIRST Competition (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology).

The President announced his intention to nominate Maurice S. Parker to be Ambassador to Swaziland.

The President announced his intention to nominate June Carter Perry to be Ambassador to Sierra Leone.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kristine L. Svinicki to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Andrew Saul (Chair), Alejandro Modesto Sanchez, and Gordon James Whiting to be members of the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Ricardo Barraza, Jr.; Sharman Ward Dennis; Carmela Vargas Gonzales; Harris N. Hollin; Casey Patrick O'Halloran; Thomas J. Reilly; Steven C. Rhatigan; and Neil Romano.

May 1

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he traveled to MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, FL, where, upon arrival, he met with USA Freedom Corps volunteer Daniel Middaugh.

Later in the morning, the President participated in a briefing at U.S. Central Command by Adm. William J. Fallon, USN, commander, U.S. Central Command; Gen. Bryan D. "Doug" Brown, USA, commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; and Gen. David H. Petraeus, USA, commanding general, Multi-National Force—Iraq.

In the afternoon, the President met with family members of military personnel killed in Iraq. Later, he returned to Washington, DC.

The President declared a major disaster in West Virginia and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides on April 14–18.

The President declared a major disaster in Texas and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and tornadoes on April 21–24.

May 2

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing. Later, he had a breakfast meeting with President Alvaro Uribe Velez of Colombia.

In the afternoon, the President had a lunch meeting with President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Rene Garcia Preval of Haiti to the White House on May 9.

May 3

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

The President announced his intention to nominate Tevi David Troy to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Kerry N. Weems to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services at the Department of Health and Human Services.

The President announced his intention to nominate Cameron R. Hume to be Ambassador to Indonesia.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bradford P. Campbell to be Assistant Secretary of Labor (Pension and Welfare Benefits).

The President announced his intention to nominate Charles E. F. Millard to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

The President announced his intention to nominate Bartholomew H. Chilton to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate Jill E. Sommers to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

The President announced his intention to nominate James Palmer and Stan Z. Soloway to be members of the Board of Directors of

the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The President announced his intention to nominate Lorne W. Craner to be a member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Committee for Purchase from People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled: Kathleen A. James; Paul M. Laird; Patrick Leahy; James Omvig; Alan S. Thompson; and Edward W. Walters III.

The President announced his intention to appoint the following individuals as members of the Cultural Property Advisory Committee: Joan Breton Connelly; Winton S. Holladay; Robert Bruce Korver; and Katharine Lee Reid.

May 4

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, on the Oval Office Patio, the President participated in an interview with the BBC.

The White House announced that the President will welcome President Toomas Ilves of Estonia to the White House on June 25.

The President announced the designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the Restoration for Devolved Government in Northern Ireland in Belfast, United Kingdom: Paula J. Dobriansky (head of delegation); Thomas C. Foley; Edward M. Kennedy; Howard Dean Pittman; and Richard F. Powers III.

The President announced his intention to nominate William G. Sutton to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce (Manufacturing and Services).

The President declared a major disaster in Vermont and ordered Federal aid to supplement State and local recovery efforts in the area struck by severe storms and flooding on April 15–21.

Nominations Submitted to the Senate

The following list does not include promotions of members of the Uniformed Services, nominations to the Service Academies, or nominations of Foreign Service officers.

Submitted April 30

James Russell Dedrick, of Tennessee, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee for the term of 4 years, vice Harry Sandlin Mattice, Jr., resigned.

Maurice S. Parker, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Swaziland.

June Carter Perry, of the District of Columbia, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Esteban Soto III, of Maryland, to be U.S. Marshal for the District of Puerto Rico for the term of 4 years, vice Herman Wirshing Rodriguez, term expired.

Joe W. Stecher, of Nebraska, to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Nebraska for the term of 4 years, vice Michael G. Heavican, term expired.

Kristine L. Svinicki, of Virginia, to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of 5 years expiring June 30, 2012, vice Jeffrey S. Merrifield, term expiring.

Submitted May 3

Bradford P. Campbell, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, vice Ann Laine Combs, resigned.